Cullen

Genealogy

Special Collections

The History from 1850 to 1963 of an Antique Salt Cellar

Thomas Cullen and his wife Bridget Cullen, who were the original owners of this salt cellar, were my Grandfather and Grandmother.

Children of Bridget Culletton and Thomas James Cullen

1. Michael, bought farm land in Ohio, married, lived there.
2. Eden, married, lived on small farm near Terre Haute, IN.
3. Thomas, Jr. bought farm a few miles from Terre Haute, married, lived there.
4. Margaret Cullen Walsh, married, lived at edge of Oakland, Illinois.
5. Ann Cullen Beall, Married, lived in Paris, Illinois.
6. Mary Cullen Carroll, married, lived on farm near Oakland, Illinois; in Brocton, Illinois; and Paris, Illinois.
7. Baby less than a year old, died on trip across ocean.

My grandfather and his wife Bridget (my grandmother) and their seven children as listed above, lived in Wexford Co., Ireland. The only information I ever had about their home in Ireland was that they had a white stone fence around the yard and that the shed for their cow was attached to the house as was the custom at that time in Ireland.

Due to the failure of the potato crop in Ireland in the year of the "black of the Potatoes" about 1850, my grandfather decided to bring his family to America. It is a well known fact that potatoes constituted the main food of the Irish people at that time. According to United States History, "Many Irish people, driven by famine, came to America about this time."

On their trip across the Atlantic Ocean, my grandfather's family took passage in the lowest deck of the ship where they cooked their meals, ate, slept, and lived for six weeks coming across the ocean.

On their trip across the Ocean, their Baby, who was not yet a year old, passed away and was buried at sea, because sharks often follow a boat carrying a body that has not been embalmed and sharks are large enough to upset boats used at that time.

The family brought with them on the boat their food, cook stove and furniture. This salt cellar was among the things they brought.

Their boat reached the harbor of New York City in the early fall. My grandfather got off the boat, but he found it was bitter cold in comparison to the mild climate they were accustomed to in Ireland. So, he decided not to disembark there, but to stay on the boat and travel on to New Orleans where the boat was destined.

The family, before long, made their way from New Orleans up to what is Coles County, Illinois.

During their stay in Coles County, their oldest son Michael became of age, and as was the custom at that time, his father presented him a horse, saddle and bridle, and he proudly rode away to earn his own living.

He made his way to the state of Ohio, married, bought farm land and made his home there.

Michael's oldest grandson studied for the priesthood at St. Paul's College, Washington, D. C. and was ordained a priest of the Paulist Order and is now Father John Paul C.S.P. He has remained at the college as an instructor ever since his ordination.

My sisters, Catherine and Elizabeth and I visited Father John at St. Paul's College of Washington, D. C. several years after he had been ordained a priest. He seemed quite interested about all his relatives in Illinois and Indiana and inquired about each of the different families.

All of the Eugene Englum family visited with Frances Paul (the sister of Father John) at the Carroll home in Paris, Illinois when Michealena Englum was about a year and a half old.

I think my grandmother passed away while the Family was living in Coles County in the year 1863 and was 56 years old when she died.

About that time, my grandfather moved to Indiana.

At the time of my grandfather's death this salt cellar was given to my Mother (Mary Cullen Carroll).

In 1927, at the time of the death of Mary Cullen Carroll this salt cellar passed into the possession of her children, then living, namely Catherine, Elizabeth and Cecilia Carroll.

As time went on, Catherine passed away in 1954 and Elizabeth in 1961, so I, Cecilia, became the owner of the Salt Cellar.

This salt cellar has traveled many miles by land and on sea and has been in the ownership of the Cullen family, who came across the ocean and their descendants for about one hundred thirty-five years (in 1963).

It is with great pleasure that I now present this Salt Cellar to Patricia Englum, who is a great, great, great, grand daughter of the original owners.

Patricia is seventeen years old and has just graduated with high honor from Paris, Illinois High School a few months ago on May 29, 1963.

The following is the record of generations as far back as I have any knowledge:

Lineage of Patricia Englum

1st generation:	Thomas and Bridget Cullen
2nd generation:	Margaret Cullen, daughter of Thomas and Bridget Cullen
3rd generation:	William Walsh, son of Margaret Cullen Walsh and John Walsh
4th generation:	Thomas Walsh, son of William Walsh and Cecelia S.
5th generation:	Mary Walsh, daughter of Thomas Walsh and Marie Wood Walsh
6th generation:	Patricia Englum, daughter of Mary Walsh Englum and Eugene Englum

In September of 1963, Cecilia Carroll compiled what she knew of the family history and lineage of Thomas Cullen and his wife, Bridget Culletton. She presented it, neatly handwritten, to Patricia Englum of Paris, Illinois along with the heirloom salt cellar brought from Ireland by Thomas and Bridget Cullen.

In 1969, she also gave me, Elsie Cullen Weir, a copy of her work.

Cecilia Carroll was born and lived in Illinois. She did not marry and devoted her life to school teaching.

Lineage of Cecilia Carroll

Papers from her estate report that Cecilia Beatrice Carroll, a resident of Paris, (Edgar County) Illinois died January 25, 1973 at Marshall, Illinois.

She was a descendant of Maternal Grandparents, Thomas James Cullen and Bridget Culletton.

Her mother, Mary Cullen, married first Jeriemiah Carroll who died in 1877. From this marriage there were four children:

John Charles	Died 1892
Mary Ann	Died 1911
Patrick Henry	Died 1904
Margaret Ellen	Died 1924

All of the children of this marriage died without descendants.

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Mary Cullen Carroll then married Michael Carroll, the brother of Jeriemiah. To this marriage were born three children:

Katharine (Kate)	Died 1954
Elizabeth (Lizzie)	Died 1961
Cecelia	Died 1973

None of the children of this marriage married. All died without descendants.